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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,026	02/15/2001	Yoshihide Iteya	57139-5045	3020

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EXAMINER

SMITH, JULIE KNECHT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,026

Applicant(s)

ITEYA, YOSHIHIDE

Examiner

Julie K Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: The word "wal" is misspelled on line 4. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, 17, 20, 23-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano (4,489,307) in view of Miike (5,345,051).

Nagano discloses a bicycle control device for holding a computer switch having an operation control device having a switch (55,56) mounted in a recess, a cable mounting recess (22) therein in communication with the switch mounting recess, wherein the cable mounting recess extends from the switch mounting recess in the direction of the cycle computer, and wherein a portion of the connecting cable (58) is mounted in the cable mounting recess. Nagano does not disclose the switch mounting assembly, as claimed. However, Miike teaches a switch mounting assembly having a top surface defining a recess therein (see fig. 2), the recess having a bottom wall (13) and a side wall (19) connected to the bottom wall, an operation control button having a shape (16), wherein the operation control button is moveable within the recess, said

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recess having a shape conforming to the shape of the control button, and wherein the side wall and bottom wall are not printed circuit boards. Miike further teaches an elastic cover (21) partially surrounding the control switch and press-fitted into the switch mounting recess, retained by frictional contact. A retention ring (26) is also fastened to the housing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle control of Nagano with the switch assembly of Miike, to provide a more secure housing for the switch, preventing rattling and vibration within the switch assembly. Moreover, the switch assembly of Miike is not electrically connected to the housing, so it would be easier to change the button out in case of damage.

Regarding claims 20 and 23-25, although the reference combination is silent concerning the particular method set forth in claims 20, and 23-25, the manufacture of the apparatus, as set forth in the reference combination above, would obviously lead to the method steps recited in the claims.

4. Claims 3-5 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Miike as applied to claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, 17, 20, 23-25 and 27 above, and further in view of Abe (6,073,730).

Regarding claims 3-5 and 14-16, the reference combination set forth above does not disclose the control device being used as a braking and shifting device. However, Abe teaches a control device having two control buttons used for braking and shifting.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the control buttons of the reference combination set forth above to

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be used to actuate shifting and braking as it is old and well known in the art to have control buttons used for braking and shifting.

5. Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Miike as applied to claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, 17, 20, 23-25 and 27 above, and further in view of Seimitsu (JP 20026893).

Regarding claim 7, the reference combination set forth above discloses a bicycle control device, as claimed, but does not disclose the control switch being attached in the switch mounting recess by an adhesive. However, Seimitsu teaches using an adhesive to attach a portable clock to a fixed base.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the control switch to the mounting recess using an adhesive so as to provide a secure connection between the switch and recess. Moreover, using an adhesive to attach one member to another is old and well known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Regarding claim 21, although the reference combination is silent concerning the particular method set forth in claim 21, the manufacture of the apparatus, as set forth in the reference combination above, would obviously lead to the method steps recited in the claims.

6. Claims 8-9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Miike as applied to claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, 17, 20, 23-25 and 27 above, and further in view of Miyoshi et al. (JP 04048521).

Regarding claims 8-9, the reference combination set forth above discloses a control device but does not disclose the switch mounting recess receiving an attachment arm, as claimed. However, Miyoshi et al. teaches a switch mounting recess defining a hole (9a,b) therein, the control switch (12) having an attachment arm (13) made of an elastic material, wherein the attachment arm is press-fitted into the hole of the switch mounting recess. Miyoshi et al. further teaches an elastic cover (10) surrounding the control switch wherein the elastic cover is press-fitted into the recess and in frictional contact with and surrounded by a recess wall (see fig. 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the control device of the reference combination set forth above with the teachings of Miyoshi et al. to provide the switch with a press-fitted mounting so as to provide a more secure and stable form of attachment for the control device switch.

Regarding claim 22, although the reference combination is silent concerning the particular method set forth in claim 22, the manufacture of the apparatus, as set forth in the reference combination above, would obviously lead to the method steps recited in the claims.

7. Claims 12 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Miike as applied to claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, 17, 20, 23-25 and 27 above, and further in view of Hill et al. (5,745,438).

The reference combination set forth above discloses a bicycle control device having a retention ring, but does not disclose a threadingly engaged retention ring. However, Hill et al. teaches a threaded retention ring used to secure a member (17) within a recess (32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of the reference combination with the teachings of Hill et al. so as to provide a secure method of retaining the control switch within the recess that could withstand the rough conditions to which a bicycle might be exposed.

Regarding claim 26, although the reference combination is silent concerning the particular method set forth in claim 26, the manufacture of the apparatus, as set forth in the reference combination above, would obviously lead to the method steps recited in the claims.

8. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Miike and further in view of Iteya. The reference combination set forth above discloses a handlebar assembly comprising a handlebar having an end, a hand grip (1), a control device (see fig. 5) attached to the handlebar proximal the hand grip such that the rider's hand can reach the control device while remaining on the hand grip, the control device defining a switch mounting recess (4), and a control device (5) mounted in the recess. The reference combination set forth above does not disclose a computer assembly, as claimed. However, Iteya discloses a cycle computer attached to a handlebar, separate from a control device with a connecting cable (22a,b) electrically connecting a control switch to the cycle computer (see fig. 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a cycle computer attached to a handle bar connected by a cable to a separate control switch so as to allow the computer screen to be visible to the rider while keeping the controls close to the hand grip so that the rider does not have to move his hand to reach the controls.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 8/4/03, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 3-27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Miike.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4,218,599 to Garn

4,641,723 to Takanashi et al.

4,565,909 to Yashima et al.

3,786,205 to Lien

3,924,116 to Brindley

5,144,103 to Suwa

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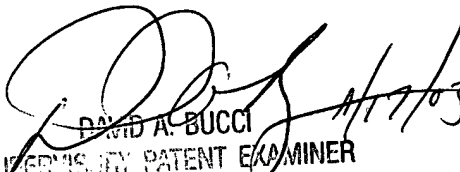
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie K Smith whose telephone number is 703-305-3948. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8-5:30, (Every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Bucci can be reached on 703-308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Jes
Jks

November 14, 2003


DAVID A. BUCCI
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